



Thursday
SEPTEMBER 1, 2016

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publication

LOS ANGELES TIMES FILE

Should I set up
my sibling with
my co-worker? **4**

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teams have a shot
at a bowl game? **6**

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Raised vs. Upstairs
at The Gwen **14**

Family man

**JOHN KRASINSKI SWAPS OFFICE DRAMA
FOR FAMILY DRAMA IN 'THE HOLLARS,'
WHICH HE DIRECTS AND STARS IN 10-12**

BY SAMANTHA NELSON FOR REDEYE | REDEYE@REDEYETCHICAGO.COM ■ GET MORE SPONTANEOUS EAT, DRINK, DO IDEAS AT REDEYETCHICAGO.COM



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**Associated Press**

"It turns out Trump didn't just choke," Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta said in a statement, "he got beat in the room and lied about it."

threesome

3 PERSPECTIVES ON ONE RELATIONSHIP QUESTION

Welcome to "Threesome." Each week, we'll take a look at a relationship question from the public and have three panelists give their insights. Have a question to ask? Shoot it over to us on Twitter at @redeyechicago or on our Facebook page. If it's a little more private, feel free to email it to redeye@redeyechicago.com with the word "Threesome" in the subject line.

I'm confident one of my new female co-workers would be an excellent match with my bro. They have tons of common interests and their personalities are very closely matched. I've mentioned him when talking to her, and she has been receptive (though never showed any direct signs of interest). My brother would be all for a set-up. What is the best way I can go about setting them up? Should I ask her if I could give her number to him (and then get him to text her)—I feel like that would take some pressure off her. —Question via Reddit, edited for length



Fred

Single, 35

• Host of "Fred and Angi in the Morning" on 103.5 KISS-FM
• @fredandangi

A thoughtful setup is a beautiful thing, but you need to keep your hands clean considering you are dealing with two central parts of your everyday life: your work and your family. If you feel that strongly about a potential match, the only thing to do here is provide each person with contact information for the other (with their permission), and allow the rest to happen organically. You laid the bait, but after making the connection, you have to allow the rest to happen as it may. The last thing you want is for this thing to implode and one or both party is mad at you for forcing the matter. So set it and forget it. If your idea fails, maybe you'll get "good guy" points for trying. If it's a huge success, take all of the credit in your speech at their wedding.



Courtney Jacquin

In a relationship, 24

• Writer, editor
• @courtneyjacquin

I think the easiest way to go about this would be to set up a casual social event with both your brother and co-worker. Maybe you have an after-work happy hour with some co-workers, and you invite your brother to join. Casually introduce the two, and see if it's a hit. You might not know everything going on in the woman's life, so giving her the phone number of your brother might put her in an awkward position if she's not really looking for anything right now. If it's meant to be, it will be.



Morgan Olsen

In a relationship, 28

• RedEye Eat & Drink, Lifestyle editor
• @morgansen

Some people love being set up and others don't. I have a hunch that your co-worker is being nice and indulging your need to play matchmaker, but it doesn't really sound like she's champing at the bit to go out with your brother. Plus, you're putting your professional relationship with her on the line if something goes awry. I'm not saying

your brother is a bad dude, but perhaps it's not the best idea to mix and match your co-workers and relatives. If I were you, I'd play it safe and abort the mission unless she goes out of her way to ask about your brother.

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sports

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EAST DIVISION

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- ⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘
= Playoff potential
- ⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘
= In mix for New Year's Six
- ⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘
= Third-tier bowl
- ⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘
= Early-cycle bowl game
- ⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘ ⌘
= Home for the holidays

1. Michigan

M We're at the end of Jim Harbaugh khaki references being worthwhile, but we're only beginning to see his positive impact on the sport. He's got a true "Swiss Army Man" in line-backer/defensive back Jabrill Peppers, who can play anywhere. Solve the quarterback situation and a playoff berth is attainable.

“He could explode into, I mean, a giant of a man.”

—**Harbaugh** on Peppers, who is 20 years old and listed at 6-foot-1 and 205 pounds.



Maybe the media, who make Harbaugh their darling of all darlings, are jumping the gun with national title talk, but they do have a strong argument.

2. Ohio State

OS The Buckeyes return just six starters. However, one of those starters is quarterback J.T. Barrett, who was fifth in 2014 Heisman Trophy voting. He'll be surrounded by five-star talent, too.

“I was thinking too much and trying to break down every situation. I hindered myself in that way.”

—**Barrett**, on how the quarterback controversy hurt him last season. Entering 2015, Barrett had been one of three quarterbacks fighting for the starting QB position.



Despite all the questions on defense, a New Year's Six bowl (a minimum expectation in Columbus) is attainable.

3. Michigan State

MS Coach Mark Dantonio has reached heights even Nick Saban couldn't achieve with the Spartans. Replacing all-time leading passer Connor Cook will be hard, but having defensive lineman Malik McDowell, likely a future first-round pick in the NFL, helps quite a bit.

“It would be very difficult for a one-loss team that wins the Big Ten championship to not be in the college football playoff.”

—**Dantonio**, on the new nine-game conference schedule.



Spartans fans are spoiled now, as they'll have to "settle" for "only" a Top 10 to Top 15 ranking once the dust settles.

4. Penn State

PS Coach James Franklin leads his first Penn State team not hindered by NCAA sanctions. Even with a potential 85-scholarship roster, however, Jerry Sandusky's crimes and disturbing Joe Paterno revelations still loom over the program.

“You're having conversations about things that you, your staff, your players have nothing to do with and happened over 40 years ago.”

—**Franklin**, on dealing with Sandusky- and Paterno-related queries.



Franklin had back-to-back seven-win seasons despite the sanctions. Now the challenge is overcoming the loss of key players.

5. Indiana

Ψ Just like the past few years, the Hoosiers will have a mediocre record but will be fun to watch.

“I think it's the difference between confidence and belief.”

—**Coach Kevin Wilson**, answering a question on how his team can turn last year's one possession losses into wins this year.



With 17 starters returning from last year's Pinstripe Bowl team, how can they possibly miss the postseason?



6. Maryland

M Former Michigan defensive coordinator D.J. Durkin is a fantastic hire who will recruit top talent from right in his backyard. However, he didn't inherit much from a team that went 3-9 overall and 1-7 in the conference last year. However, the Terrapins do have the power of Maryland alum and Under Armour CEO Kevin Plank behind them.

“If you're not a starter, he [still] wants you out there competing in practice like you are a starter.”

—**Linebacker Jermaine Carter Jr.**, on Durkin.



At least they'll look really good, uniform-wise, in losing.

7. Rutgers

R New coach Chris Ash has a substantial pedigree, but to clean up the mess he inherited, he needs to run a squeaky-clean program first and foremost.

“Anytime you have free time, there's always a chance or risk of bad things happening to players in your program.”

—**Ash**, on avoiding off-the-field issues.



Rutgers is the league's kid who gets picked last in gym class.

By Paul M. Banks | FOR REDEYE

The Big Ten, like college football at large, is a world of haves and have-nots. Distinct tiers exist within the conference, and the bowl system complements this stratification.

Some might call that system overgrown. Regardless, it's the only one that exists right now, and teams often measure success by how many late December/early January appearances they earn. Ten Big Ten teams accepted bowl bids in 2015, and that contingent could be repeated this season.

With that, RedEye predicts the conference standings and rates every team's postseason potential.

PAUL M. BANKS IS A REDEYE CONTRIBUTOR. @PAULMBANKS
GETTY IMAGES



WEST DIVISION

1. Iowa



It will be difficult to duplicate last sea-

son's success, but the division remains winnable. Cornerback Desmond King, the league's top NFL talent, returns, as does quarterback C.J. Beathard, who was anointed "the next Tom Brady" by Donald Trump.

"I got some grief for going to that, and posting a picture with him on Instagram."

—Beathard, who isn't a Trump supporter, on the reaction to his appearance at a Trump rally.



The Hawkeyes have an easy path to the Big Ten title game, but they have to close the deal this time.

2. Wisconsin



The quiet model of consistency, the Badgers

won 10 games last year without much fanfare. It's routine in Madison; they've won 11 games three times this decade.

"

I know what you're trying to get me to say."

—Running back Dare Ogunbowale, insinuating that a reporter wanted him to say the conference's new TV money should go to the players. Whether that was indeed the reporter's intention, we can't say.



The Badgers' storyline this year is familiar: Talented tailbacks follow NFL-bound offensive linemen. Rinse and repeat until New Year's Day bowl.

3. Nebraska



Last season was tough for the Huskers, and this off-season has been no better. The death of punter Sam Foltz deprived them of a leader. Then receivers coach Keith Williams being arrested for DUI gave the program a black eye.

"

I understand there is no room for error for me at Nebraska, and I am going to work hard every day to prove that I am worthy to represent the Huskers."

—Williams, in a statement, after his arrest.



The Huskers have the talent to win the division, but as Al Pacino said in "Any Given Sunday": "Either we heal, as a team, or we're going to crumble, inch by inch, play by play, 'til we're finished."

4. Northwestern



The Wildcats had real substance but little style last season.

Despite few explosive plays and an awful passing game, they were one win away from breaking the school record. Linebacker Anthony Walker Jr. has both All-American and first-round NFL draft pick potential. Coach Pat Fitzgerald has made Lou Ferrigno comparisons when describing Walker's physique, and that's not hyperbole.

"

You mean, like, Yoda?" —Fitzgerald, when asked if he's had any "linebacker to linebacker" conversations with Walker.



Someone other than Justin Jackson must become an offensive weapon if Northwestern is to win in double digits again.

5. Illinois



Former Bears Coach Lovie Smith gives Illinois something it hasn't

had since the mid 1990s: an identity. Smith's teams are strong defensively, and new defensive coordinator Hardy Nickerson was a terrific NFL line-backers. And Hardy Nickerson Jr. will start at linebacker for the Illini this season.

"

Rex is definitely our quarterback. For the record, I love Rex Grossman."

—Smith, having fun at Media Day.



Smith didn't inherit much depth or talent, but like former secretary of defense and Chicago native Donald Rumsfeld said, "You go to war with the army you have, not the army you might want or wish to have at a later time."

6. Minnesota



Coach Tracy Claeys had

the interim tag removed midseason in 2015, and now the program officially belongs to him. Unfortunately, the Gophers are 2-4 since he took over for the retired Jerry Kill.

"

As they say, beauty is in the eyes of the beholder."

—Claeys, downplaying a media report that his depth chart lacks talent at quarterback.



One of the most underserving bowl teams in history in 2015, it appears opponents are solving the Gophers.

7. Purdue



As Cate Blanchett's character said in "The Talented Mr. Ripley," "You should always save pain for daylight." Fortunately for Purdue fans, they have no night games scheduled. Coach Darrell Hazell is 6-30 overall and 2-22 in conference play at Purdue.

"

We're not worried about the last few seasons. Just keep trusting us. We'll show you on the field."

—Defensive lineman Jake Replogle's message to fans.



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Jimmy Butler at the Rio Olympics
GETTY IMAGES

Broncos star tells Butler to take a hike

By Phil Thompson | CHICAGO TRIBUNE

If the Denver Broncos aren't sold on Northwestern's Trevor Siemian as their starting quarterback, Jimmy Butler's interested.

The Bulls guard and his friend Demaryius Thomas, a Broncos receiver, joked about Butler manning Peyton Manning's old position in Denver in dueling Instagram posts late Tuesday.

"@demaryiust88 .. take note. you lucky georgia tech didn't recruit me or I woulda been wearing number 8 at wide out.. #justtalking

#dontoverreact #idontplayreceiveriplayqb #omahalikepeytonmanning," Butler wrote.

Thomas posted, "First he better than me

@jimmybutler ... Now he want snaps at the QB position, wanna throw me and Emmanuel the rock haha.. @jimmybutler stick to bball please bro."

Football has been a summerlong infatuation for Butler. In Rio, he played some one-on-one pass-catching drills against fellow Olympian Klay Thompson. And he's traded good-natured taunts with Steelers star wideout Antonio Brown about each other's skills in football and basketball.

Butler wore Brown's No. 84 jersey while showing off his Corn Flakes cereal box cover, and he has posted multiple pics of himself wearing Thomas' jersey.



They're in the clear

After all that hand-wringing, the NFL on Wednesday announced that there is "no credible evidence" that former Bears defensive lineman Julius Peppers had used performance-enhancing drugs despite allegations made in an Al-Jazeera documentary. The league also cleared the Packers' Clay Matthews, now Peppers' teammate in Green Bay, and Pittsburgh's James Harrison.



GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTO

THE MOUTHWATCH
"THIS IS NOT SOMETHING THAT I'M DOING FOR PUBLICITY. I'M DEFINITELY NOT DOING IT FINANCIALLY. I'M TAKING A PAY CUT TO COME OUT HERE AND WORK."

—Tim Tebow, to ESPN, on his aspiring career in pro baseball.



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According to JIM

JOHN KRASINSKI TALKS 'THE HOLLARS,' PUSHY WOMEN AND RAISING A FAMILY

It feels very natural to sit across from John Krasinski. At 25, he was plucked from obscurity to play Jim Halpert in "The Office," and for the next eight years, we watched Jim (and John) talk to us. It's not unusual for fans to convince themselves they know celebrities, but there was something different about the bond to Krasinski. We learned his laugh, his facial expressions, his inflections—he became impossibly familiar. When it came time to interview him, it strangely felt like the continuation of a conversation that had been happening for a long time. Of course, that's an illusion. Krasinski is not Jim Halpert—a fact that he has proven in recent years with acting roles, screenplays and directorial efforts. His latest endeavor, "The Hollars," premiered at the Sundance Film Festival and opens in theaters Friday. It's a story about a man coming home, but more importantly to Krasinski, it's about a family reconnecting.



LA TIMES FILE PHOTO

"My family is 180 degrees different than this family. I come from a very loving, well-communicative, well-connected family," the 36-year-old said. "But at the same time, when I finished the script, I was weeping harder than I've ever wept during a script. I'm a crier, so it's not like a big deal, but I think it's because what I see in this movie is the connection between the characters. So the open channel of possibility of how much you can get out of your family. And that sounds so esoteric and heady as I'm saying it, but it really is how I feel."

The Hollars are a dysfunctional family brought back together by their mother's brain tumor diagnosis. Regrets and resentment abound, and despite Krasinski's own happy upbringing, he said he recognized a universal quality in the script.

"It's not true if you say, 'I don't care how I was brought up.' There's that moment when [Don, his character's father] says, 'I'm sorry I wasn't there for you,' and I say, 'It doesn't matter to me.' That's a total lie, but it's called coping. That's what we do," Krasinski said. "I remember somebody just said, 'I love the movie, if I had a better relationship with my mom, I would have called her.' And I was like, 'You still can, that's the beauty!' But in his head, he's probably thinking about some weird fight they had at Christmas."

The character who inspires that sort of wistful thinking is Hollar family matriarch Sally, a formidable presence. While her husband and two sons are flailing because of her health problems, she takes charge and brushes off anxiety. "I like Becca, she's pushy," she says of her son's girlfriend (played by Anna Kendrick). When he nods a little too emphatically, she adds, "Men need to be pushed."

It's a sentiment Krasinski said he agrees with "100 percent." Though he is a "fully functional, self-inspired" person, it took a push from his wife, Emily Blunt, before he knew that he wanted to direct "The Hollars." In the minutiae of their everyday life, Krasinski even admitted his wife sometimes pushes him to be better at time management.

Krasinski sets the scene at home: He's sitting on the couch, and in walks Blunt.

"What time is the movie?" she asks him.

"4," he says.

"What time is it now?"

"4:15."

"And she's like, 'What is going on? On what planet do you think we're going to make this movie?' And I build in oh, there's 10 minutes of previews and it's going to be



John Krasinski and Anna Kendrick in 'The Hollars'

fine," Krasinski said. "I think she still to this day can't understand how I can possibly live like that."

Krasinski and Blunt are now raising their own family together (Hazel is 2 and Violet is 2 months old), and the script for "The Hollars" came into Krasinski's life as he faced the precipice of fatherhood. His character, John, is also about to become a father and is desperately afraid of failing his future kid, and Krasinski's own experience popped into the script when he rewrote a scene between John and Becca based on conversations he had with Blunt.

"For me, it wasn't about was I going to be a failure to the child as a father and like screw things up like bottles and diapers, it was more like, 'Am I the man that I want to be?'" he said. "I think failure seems harsher for that character more than me, but [there were] certainly strings of that. The idea that I want to be the person that this person can trust and love for the rest of their life, and I've got to sort my stuff out before I ask them to sort their stuff out."

It's interesting to talk to Krasinski about how he approaches parenthood, considering how fond he is of his own upbringing. When asked what he's trying to do differently with his own kids, he

laughed.

"That is a huge question. Do I have to pay you \$170 an hour for this?"

While so many are trying to right the wrongs of their parents, Krasinski just wants to live up to how he was raised. But of course, it's never that simple.

"It's about maintaining the way I was brought up—core values—but also things like having to earn your experience," Krasinski said. "So I certainly will do that thing with my daughter, which is that no matter where we are in our level of success, it's always got to be that thing of appreciating what you have."

So if there's a toy she wants, I'll say, 'Great, how much do you have?' That's going to drive my daughter nuts, but those are the things I want to instill in her despite this new world of you get everything you want right when you want it. I don't know, that's kind of a weird answer, but it's kind of about maintaining the values of what I was brought up in but trying to adapt them to a much different world."

While trying to strike that balance, Krasinski doesn't shy away from new things, and he isn't afraid of change.

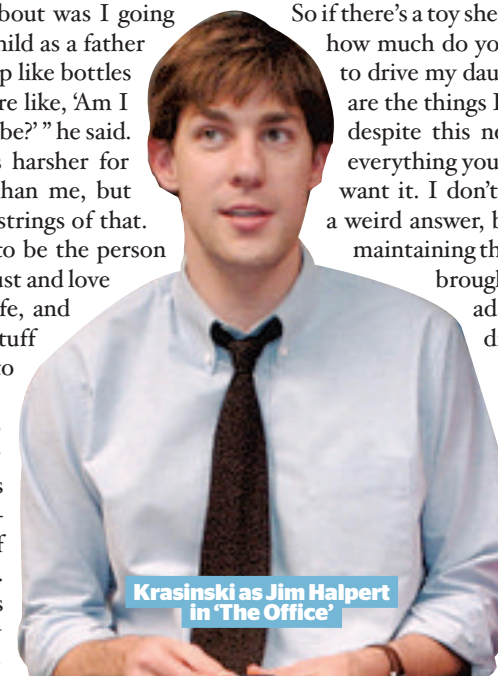
Recently, he was cast as Jack Ryan in the upcoming Amazon series. As someone who

got established in network TV, it's conceivable that Krasinski would be wary of this new age of television. Instead, he insisted "The Office" was really on the cutting edge of TV's transformation—the show only avoided cancellation because fans were paying for it on iTunes.

"I think it blew everybody's mind," he said. "And so they saved our show because there was some weird source of information saying people will actually pay money for something we're offering them for free. So I guess the beginning of my experience was always with this understanding of new groundbreaking direction, so I've been a product of that. I always look forward to it. I love new stuff. I love seeing how all this content comes at us in different ways. I know there's this huge conversation that we're being overwhelmed by way too much content, but I think this is the Wild West because it makes you have to write something great, because I now get to choose what I want rather than being told what I want."

Ultimately, what Krasinski values most in his career is storytelling. He quotes George Clooney in saying that you can make a bad film from a great script, but you can never make a great film from a bad script. Acting, writing and directing are all avenues that Krasinski has walked, and he won't be content to stick with just one. Whatever will help him tell the best story—the kind that makes you feel like you know a character that isn't even real.

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Krasinski as Jim Halpert in 'The Office'

According to JIM

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"It's not true if you say, 'I don't care how I was brought up.' There's that moment when [Don, his character's father] says, 'I'm sorry I wasn't there for you,' and I say, 'It doesn't matter to me.' That's a total lie, but it's called coping. That's what we do," Krasinski said. "I remember somebody just said, 'I love the movie, if I had a better relationship with my mom, I would have called her.' And I was like, 'You still can, that's the beauty!' But in his head, he's probably thinking about some weird fight they had at Christmas."

The character who inspires that sort of wistful thinking is Hollar family matriarch Sally, a formidable presence. While her husband and two sons are flailing because of her health problems, she takes charge and brushes off anxiety. "I like Becca, she's pushy," she says of her son's girlfriend (played by Anna Kendrick). When he nods a little too emphatically, she adds, "Men need to be pushed."

It's a sentiment Krasinski said he agrees with "100 percent." Though he is a "fully functional, self-inspired" person, it took a push from his wife, Emily Blunt, before he knew that he wanted to direct "The Hollars." In the minutiae of their everyday life, Krasinski even admitted his wife sometimes pushes him to be better at time management.

Krasinski sets the scene at home: He's sitting on the couch, and in walks Blunt.

"What time is the movie?" she asks him.

"4," he says.

"What time is it now?"

"4:15."

"And she's like, 'What is going on? On what planet do you think we're going to make this movie?' And I build in oh, there's 10 minutes of previews and it's going to be



John Krasinski and Anna Kendrick in 'The Hollars'

fine," Krasinski said. "I think she still to this day can't understand how I can possibly live like that."

Krasinski and Blunt are now raising their own family together (Hazel is 2 and Violet is 2 months old), and the script for "The Hollars" came into Krasinski's life as he faced the precipice of fatherhood. His character, John, is also about to become a father and is desperately afraid of failing his future kid, and Krasinski's own experience popped into the script when he rewrote a scene between John and Becca based on conversations he had with Blunt.

"For me, it wasn't about was I going to be a failure to the child as a father and like screw things up like bottles and diapers, it was more like, 'Am I the man that I want to be?'" he said. "I think failure seems harsher for that character more than me, but [there were] certainly strings of that. The idea that I want to be the person that this person can trust and love for the rest of their life, and I've got to sort my stuff out before I ask them to sort their stuff out."

It's interesting to talk to Krasinski about how he approaches parenthood, considering how fond he is of his own upbringing. When asked what he's trying to do differently with his own kids, he

laughed.

"That is a huge question. Do I have to pay you \$170 an hour for this?"

While so many are trying to right the wrongs of their parents, Krasinski just wants to live up to how he was raised. But of course, it's never that simple.

"It's about maintaining the way I was brought up—core values—but also things like having to earn your experience," Krasinski said. "So I certainly will do that thing with my daughter, which is that no matter where we are in our level of success, it's always got to be that thing of appreciating what you have."

So if there's a toy she wants, I'll say, 'Great, how much do you have?' That's going to drive my daughter nuts, but those are the things I want to instill in her despite this new world of you get everything you want right when you want it. I don't know, that's kind of a weird answer, but it's kind of about maintaining the values of what I was brought up in but trying to adapt them to a much different world."

While trying to strike that balance, Krasinski doesn't shy away from new things, and he isn't afraid of change.

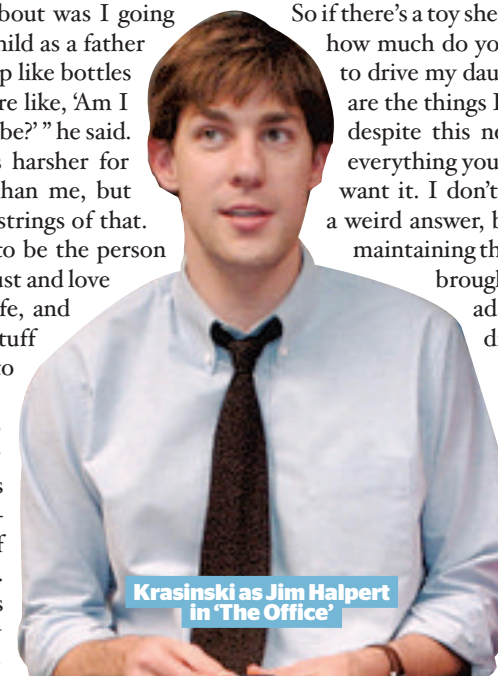
Recently, he was cast as Jack Ryan in the upcoming Amazon series. As someone who

got established in network TV, it's conceivable that Krasinski would be wary of this new age of television. Instead, he insisted "The Office" was really on the cutting edge of TV's transformation—the show only avoided cancellation because fans were paying for it on iTunes.

"I think it blew everybody's mind," he said. "And so they saved our show because there was some weird source of information saying people will actually pay money for something we're offering them for free. So I guess the beginning of my experience was always with this understanding of new groundbreaking direction, so I've been a product of that. I always look forward to it. I love new stuff. I love seeing how all this content comes at us in different ways. I know there's this huge conversation that we're being overwhelmed by way too much content, but I think this is the Wild West because it makes you have to write something great, because I now get to choose what I want rather than being told what I want."

Ultimately, what Krasinski values most in his career is storytelling. He quotes George Clooney in saying that you can make a bad film from a great script, but you can never make a great film from a bad script. Acting, writing and directing are all avenues that Krasinski has walked, and he won't be content to stick with just one. Whatever will help him tell the best story—the kind that makes you feel like you know a character that isn't even real.

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Krasinski as Jim Halpert in 'The Office'

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movies



John Krasinski and Anna Kendrick in 'The Hollars'

'Hollar' all you want, but 'Garden State' did it better



Lauren Chval

» laurenchval@redychicago.com
 » @lchval

A man questioning his existence returns to his childhood home because of his mother's health. There, he has to face his decisions and figure out what he's going to do with his life. Sounds like "Garden State," right? Just kidding, it's actually "The

Hollars," the second directorial effort by John Krasinski.

What's good?

Families are complicated and rife with conflict, making them ideal settings for stories like this. When John confesses to Rebecca that he's scared of being a father because that's "one more person I'm going to be failing," you can't help but be moved by the insecurity that feels universal. "The Hollars" presents a few moments that tie into experiences felt by all.

What's bad?

The writing, across the board. Screenwriter James C. Strouse fails to create natural dialogue, believable characters or even a narrative that makes sense. Clunky exposition and character introductions take the form of lines like, "Where have you been all our lives?" John's ex-girlfriend is not only irrelevant to the story, but her one scene is truly bizarre. And poor Anna Kendrick deserves better than playing Rebecca, a woman who is only there to be patient and rich and an emotional fix to John's baggage with no internal life of her own. It's almost offensive how perfect she is.

★ ★ ★ ★
THE HOLLARS
 PG-13

What happens?

John Hollar (Krasinski) lives in New York City and is about to have a baby with his girlfriend, Rebecca (Anna Kendrick). He's dissatisfied with their life for no particular reason but has to make a trip back home when his mom (Margo Martindale) is diagnosed with a brain tumor. His brother (Sharlto Copley) and dad (Richard Jenkins) are both bumbling incompetents going through their own problems, and complicating matters is a run-in with John's

Final verdict

There are glimmers of warmth in "The Hollars," but most moments that tug on your heartstrings are undeserved.



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eat & drink

Raised



ROOFTOP FACEOFF

RAISED VS. UPSTAIRS AT THE GWEN

HOW DO THESE TWO
NEW ROOFTOPS COMPARE?

By Heather Schroering | REDEYE

Upstairs at The Gwen



It won't be long before the days of swilling summer sips in the sun are over, but there's still time to check out those hot new rooftops that opened this year. Earlier this summer, we compared the sky-high views of LH Rooftop at LondonHouse and Aire at Hyatt Centric The Loop Chicago, but we're taking it down a notch with Raised on the third floor of the Renaissance Chicago Downtown Hotel and Upstairs at The Gwen on the fifth floor of the River North hotel. One of these bars is the best rooftop opening we've seen all year, proving that a little elevation goes a long way. Here's how the two newcomers stacked up.

THE CONTENDERS

Raised

1 W. Upper Wacker Drive 312-795-3444

A garden oasis with a front-row view of the Chicago River, this industrial greenhouse-inspired rooftop deck tucked on the third floor of the Renaissance Chicago Downtown Hotel opened in May.

Upstairs at The Gwen

521 N. Rush St. 312-645-1500

On the fifth floor of the River North hotel, this terrace lounge with an art deco vibe also opened in May and offers elevated views of Chicago architecture in the thick of downtown.

THE VIBE

Raised

Very accurately billed as a "greenhouse overlooking Chicago's skyline," the 2,500-square-foot third-floor terrace has room for more than 100. The patio itself wraps around the pyramidal glass ceiling of Great Street restaurant on the level below, giving the space

a conservatory vibe. Cool dark gray slabs of stone for tables and bar rails, cabana-style seating and tabletop fire pits give the space a natural open-air feeling, while wildflowers in planter boxes surrounding the perimeter of the terrace brighten the space. An "elevated beer and cocktail garden," as bar operations manager William Nykaza calls it, Raised offers first-come-first-served seating to maintain a relaxed environment. The inside bar, with the vibe of a classic gentlemen's club, is also a comfortable hangout, with exposed brick, overstuffed leather couches that look particularly cozy for cold-weather snuggling and a large backlit sign that says "A Guy Walks into a Bar ..." in scripted letters. About 80 percent of bar guests are locals, Nykaza said, and given the phenomenal cocktail menu alone (more on that later), Raised is certainly worth a trip downtown.

Upstairs

Spacious and sprawling with 3,000 square feet, there's seating for 80 at glass high-tops, loungey couches and a stone communal table with a fire pit centerpiece. It feels a lot like a standard

Lobster rolls at Raised

upscale hotel bar offering. Surrounded by towering stone and glass buildings, the space could definitely use more greenery than the few existing trees in planter pots. Hot pink throw pillows give the terrace some warmth, but the color palette of light grays and black lends the space a particular industrial vibe that could benefit from more pops of color. And while a bright and sunny day is best enjoyed outside, the patio could use a few more umbrellas to cozy up the seating and shield those harsh rays. The inside bar, Circa, embodies several art deco characteristics, including marbleized flooring, banquette seating and gold accents, all decor choices I'd like to see carry over more outside.

**THE VIEW
Raised**

The views along the Chicago River are some of my favorite in the city. I walk down Wacker Drive to and from the office every day, and I often remind myself to pause and take in the soaring buildings poised against the undulating water. Raised is a true urban sanctuary. Situated in the midst of the views I can't get enough of from the street, it's exactly the kind of place where I want to sit down and indulge in Chicago's historic architecture—the Wrigley Building, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe skyscrapers, the rose-petaled Marina City towers—and modern glass structures that sparkle against the green river and blue sky. And when the sun dips down, guests are treated to a special view of twinkling city lights glowing yellow against the twilight sky. The flowers and foliage that pepper the rooftop terrace soften the surrounding industrialism, a picturesque view of nature and machine existing in harmony.

Upstairs

Located on Rush Street, Upstairs delivers on hard-to-come-by views of downtown architecture. While it doesn't have the same unobstructed picturesque skyline element of other rooftop bars, it's situated among downtown buildings, offering angles of the city's diverse structures without feeling too overbearing. While much of downtown is crowded with towering skyscrapers that often block sun from the street, Upstairs is located in a rare

clearing of the metropolis that allows it to feel open and airy, as if you're floating among the architecture.

**THE MENU
Raised**

Chicago hotel bars aren't your typical quick-G&T-in-the-lobby kind of watering holes. With Cindy's at the Chicago Athletic Association Hotel, The Broken Shaker at Freehand and Sable at Hotel Palomar, the stakes are high for hotel bars that intend to bring in a local audience. Raised stands up to that, and after just one visit, I put it on par with Cindy's and the others as far as creative ingredients and elevated cocktail

ing are concerned. A perfect example is the **Watered Flowers** (\$14), cucumber- and orchid-infused vodka, Aperol, fresh strawberry syrup, lemon juice and egg white garnished with dried Chinese rosebuds and a gorgeous design drizzled over the egg white with Angostura bitters. Fresh and light, the drink was surprisingly vegetal but pleasantly sweet with subtle melon flavors.

My favorite drink was the Summerhouse Cigar (\$16), a scotch-based sip with amaretto, coffee and vanilla liqueurs and Burlesque Bitters, flavored with hibiscus, long pepper and acai berry. At first glance, I feared it would be sickly sweet from the liqueurs, but the herba-ceous bitters cut through any syrupy sweetness, bringing out the stone fruit notes from the amaretto paired with smoky scotch.

"Balance is my principle in building," Nykaza said. "Nothing should be described as sweet or sour or tart, it should have a nice level flavor."

The menu also offers eight wines on draft and several by the glass and bottle. All of the beer offerings are surprisingly local, including six Belgian-inspired drafts, a style Nykaza said yields some of the "best beers on the planet." The "Raised in Chicago brew tour" section lists beer from more than 10 local breweries and their neighborhoods, including Logan Square's

**Barrel-aged boulevardier
at Upstairs at the Gwen**
LENNY GILMORE/REDEYE

Off Color Brewing and Bridgeport's Marz Community Brewing. Inspired by one of his fond pastimes of brewery-hopping throughout Lakeview and other neighborhoods, Nykaza wanted to recreate that experience.

The food menu is made up of small plates, shareables and a few desserts. I was especially pleased with the number of vegetarian, gluten-free and pescetarian options, which made up most of the menu. We went for grilled corn lollipops (\$8), a citrusy delight rolled in a chipotle-lime aioli topped with cotija cheese and Aleppo pepper, and mini lobster rolls (\$21) served on soft sweet rolls that were the perfect size for the creamy lobster stuffing topped with tomato and pickled onion. While I had my eye on the burnt caramel ice cream sandwich (\$7), I think I made the right choice with the peanut butter & jelly push-pop (\$6). Filled with layers of peanut butter mousse, grape jam, chocolate-covered crispies and meringue, it was just the right size to satisfy a subtle hankering for a sweet treat nightcap.

Upstairs

If you order nothing else at this bar, get the prosecco poptails (\$17). With a menu of plays on classics, the housemade popsicles topped with sparkling wine are money and a super fun interactive experience. I tried both the strawberry-peach, made from a puree of vodka, peach schnapps and fresh peaches, strawberries and orange juice, and ginger-cucumber, made with ginger beer, gin, fresh cucumbers and fresh lime juice. Served as prosecco-drizzled popsicles in tall wine glasses, I loved how the drinks changed entirely from first sip to last. As the popsicles melted, they only enhanced the prosecco, creating a slushy, fizzy drink that couldn't be better suited for a patio. I enjoyed the light, fresh flavors of the ginger-cucumber, but the strawberry-peach popsicle was deliciously tangy with sorbet-like softness that melted into a fruity drink that left me thirsty for a frozen daiquiri. I'd only suggest

including jokes on the popsicle sticks.

Most of the other drinks are riffs on classics (\$16 each), such as the barrel-aged boulevardier with bourbon, sweet vermouth and Campari aged in-house in new oak barrels. I didn't think that cocktail was anything special, particularly after the poptails. While refreshing, the cucumber splash, a mix of elderflower liqueur, cucumber vodka and mint, didn't impress me either for the price. Next time, I'll skip these altogether and go straight for the poptails.

The food was also rather disappointing and bland. While deviled eggs are so en vogue right now, I was expecting an exciting snack, but the dish (\$8), three egg white halves with creamy yolks dolloped inside topped with a slice of red pepper, wasn't any better than what you'd find at a suburban Super Bowl party. Though the green olive relish and roasted pepper aioli on the crispy chorizo fritters (\$12) caught my eye, the battered ball was more potato than anything and lacked a dominant flavor. The tuna tataki tacos (\$15) were almost redeemable with pleasantly smoky tuna steak topped with Asian vegetable slaw and sweet chili sauce, but a little salt would have gone a long way. In fact, each dish would have really benefited from a sprinkle of salt. Let this serve as a PSA to bring back salt and pepper shakers to modern restaurant tables.

**THE VERDICT
Raised**

With drinks that live up to Chicago's craft standards and an ideal view of striking cityscapes, Raised is the full package. It's everything a hotel rooftop bar should be and so intrinsically Chicago that I'm thankful the inside bar will be there come wintertime.

Upstairs

With an interesting view of the city and a lovely prosecco offering, Upstairs isn't a bad idea for a quick rooftop sip during a shopping break. Skip the food and cocktails, but go for those poptails. They're definitely worth the trip.

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HEATHER SCHROERING IS REDEYE'S NIGHTLIFE REPORTER.
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books

Joseph Gordon-Levitt as
Edward Snowden in 'Snowden'Shelf to
screen

YOUR SEPTEMBER BOOK-TO-MOVIE GUIDE

By Margaux Henquinet | REDEYE

With several book-to-movie films coming to screens in the next month, brace yourself for the inevitable “Which was better?” debates. Want to be able to get your two cents in? Here are all the titles to check off your list. @GAUXMARGAUX | MHENQUINET@REDEYETCHICAGO.COM

SEPT. 2
The Light Between Oceans**BASED ON:** The book of the same name by M.L. Stedman

Lighthouse keeper Tom Sherbourne and his wife, Isabel, live a pretty quiet life on an island far off the Australian coast. But one day a boat washes up on their shore carrying a dead man and a live baby girl, and everything gets all kinds of complicated. The movie stars Michael Fassbender and Alicia Vikander as Tom and Isabel.

SEPT. 9
Sully**BASED ON:** “Highest Duty: My Search for What Really Matters” by Chesley Sullenberger and Jeffrey Zaslow

Remember back in 2009, when a plane hit a flock of geese and made an emergency landing in New York’s Hudson River and no one died? Get the full story from the book written by the pilot himself, Chesley Sullenberger, or head into theaters for the Hollywood version starring Tom Hanks. It’s a heroic tale either way.

The Wild Life**BASED ON:** “Robinson Crusoe” by Daniel Defoe

If you snoozed through your lit class’s unit on the classic 1719 novel about a castaway’s long stay on a tropical island, give it another chance with this animated spin on the tale, told through the eyes of the island’s animal population. Which apparently includes a glasses-wearing goat, because of course.

SEPT. 16**Bridget Jones’s Baby****BASED ON:** Bridget Jones series by Helen Fielding

Technically, this threequel is an all-new story starring some of the beloved characters from the novels, including Renee Zellweger’s Bridget Jones and Colin Firth’s Mark Darcy. But it’s still a good excuse to read the diary-style series about the lovable British 30-something’s adventures and misadventures in life and love.

Snowden

BASED ON: “The Snowden Files” by Luke Harding and “Time of the Octopus” by Anatoly Kucherena
“The Snowden Files” tells the story of real NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden; “Time of the Octopus”—currently only available in Russia, sorry—tells the story of fictional

whistleblower Joshua Cold. With its source material based in both reality and fiction, it’s unclear how much truth we’ll actually get from “Snowden,” but at least it stars Joseph Gordon-Levitt.

SEPT. 23**Queen of Katwe****BASED ON:** “The Queen of Katwe: A Story of Life, Chess, and One Extraordinary Girl’s Dream of Becoming a Grandmaster” by Tim Crothers

Missing the underdog stories of the Olympics? Get another case of those feels with this true story of Phiona Mutesi, who had dropped out of school in her Ugandan slum before learning how to play chess and working her way to an international title in just about four years. You go, girl. Lupita Nyong’o, David Oyelowo and newcomer Madina Nalwanga star in the film version.

SEPT. 30**Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children****BASED ON:** The book of the same name by Ransom Riggs

These “peculiar children” aren’t your typical angst-y young people trying to find themselves; here, we’re talking kids—some older than they appear—with super strength, invisibility or

other “peculiarities.” The book is based on old photos Riggs found at flea markets and such; the movie is directed by actual king of the peculiar Tim Burton. Doesn’t get more delightfully weird than this.

Deepwater Horizon**BASED ON:** “Deepwater Horizon’s Final Hours,” a New York Times article by David Barstow, David S. Rohde and Stephanie Saul

In April 2010, explosions destroyed the Deepwater Horizon oil rig, killing 11 people and injuring dozens. The article was based on interviews with 21 Deepwater Horizon crew members and written statements by dozens more; the film stars Mark Wahlberg, Kate Hudson, Kurt Russell, Gina Rodriguez, John Malkovich and more.



Eva Green and Asa Butterfield in ‘Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children’



'The Time is Now (Starting Tomorrow)'

set the scene

6 CHICAGO SHOWS TO SEE THIS WEEK

By Morgan Olsen | REDEYE

Step away from the Netflix marathon and find your way into one of these local theaters for a belly laugh this week. Your guide to Chicago's affordable and under-the-radar comedy scene awaits. @MORGANCOLSEN | MCOLSEN@REDEYETCHICAGO.COM

FRIDAY

'The Time is Now (Starting Tomorrow)'

Under the Gun Theater

956 W. Newport Ave. 773-270-3440

Just think of all the things you could do if you put in the extra effort. The folks at the Lakeview theater take it one step further by acting out extreme scenarios: How far would Hillary Clinton go to land your vote? How would you handle waking up from a 10-year coma? Laugh it out at this song-filled original revue. 9 p.m. \$12. Tickets: underthegun.theater

'Wait, Wait, For Realsies?'

The Public House Theatre

3914 N. Clark St. 773-230-4770

This comedic storytelling event hosts five performers each week who present a true story that goes along with the week's theme. 10 p.m. \$5. Tickets: thepubtheatre.com

SATURDAY

'Improvvised Aaron's Party'

The de Maat Studio Theatre at Second City

1608 N. Wells St. 312-337-3992

Indulge in a little childhood nostalgia as the six members of French Toast meld together audience suggestions, hits from Aaron Carter and all the stuff you do (and don't) remember from '90s house parties. 8:30 p.m. \$13. Tickets: secondcity.com

'Shark Showcase'

Cafe Latino

1454 W. 18th St. 773-957-8040

This free stand-up showcase in Pilsen features a lineup of local comedians on the first and third Saturday of the month. 8 p.m. Free. More information: eventbrite.com

SUNDAY

'Character Assassination Presents the Roast of Pokémon'

Laugh Factory

3175 N. Broadway 773-327-3175

Chicago comedians roast a fictional character or historical figure, calling Pokémon to the hot seat this week. Dressed up as Mario, Godzilla, Hello Kitty and more, performers take aim at the Nintendo franchise. 9 p.m. \$17-\$20. Tickets: laughfactory.com

TUESDAY

'The One-Woman No-Show'

The iO Theater

1501 N. Kingsbury St. 312-929-2401

Making its debut at the Near North Side theater, this show from writer and director Liz Anderson offers actors the ultimate test: They'll read excerpts from a script written especially for them. The catch? They won't get to peep the script until that night. This week's performers include Nnamdi Ngwe, Padraic Connelly and Kat Kuhl. 8 p.m. \$12. Tickets: ioimprov.com

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

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7	4	8	2	3	5	6	1	9
9	2	3	4	6	1	8	5	7
4	3	5	6	1	7	2	9	8
2	8	9	3	5	4	7	6	1
6	7	1	8	2	9	5	4	3

WEDNESDAY'S SOLUTIONS

FIT			SCRAM		FIST
DRAW			ARISE		ROTE
ROLE			TACKS		AWED
			NEEDINESS		NAPS
			LURK		ILK
UPSIDE			PLEASANT		
REINS			DAISY		COO
BANE			FILET		CHOW
ACE			TAMES		GEESE
NEWCOMER			POISED		
			LEI		TEAL
COCA			SCRAWLING		
ADAM			HOIST		NEER
GERM			EMOTE		GATE
ESPY			DETER		TAX

TODAY IN THE YEAR ...

- 1807: Former Vice President Aaron Burr was found not guilty of treason.
1914: The last known passenger pigeon, Martha, died at the Cincinnati Zoo.
1939: World War II began as Nazi Germany invaded Poland.

ACROSS

- 1 Think deeply
5 Lupus symptoms
10 Yahtzee cubes
14 Strong __ ox
15 Canonized one
16 Blunders
17 Buy's opposite
18 Fraternity letter
19 Thrown for a __; confused
20 Old sewing machine pedal
22 Necessity of acting immediately
24 Get __ of; shed
25 Sheep's cry
26 Straighten
29 ABC followers
30 the way; pioneers
34 Melody
35 Sean Connery's title
36 Baggage porter
37 __ nutshell; with few words
38 Capital of Venezuela
40 One __ kind; unique thing
41 Came to shore
43 Scottish cap
44 Horse's gait
45 Cornered
46 Allow
47 Eats
48 off; departs
50 El __ Spanish soldier & hero
51 Saloons
54 Pudding flavor
58 Has debts
59 Abraham's son
61 Actor James __ Jones
62 Fender bender memento
63 Instruct
64 Clipper or galleon
65 Chances
66 Asp or adder
67 Bathroom features, often

DOWN

- 1 Ship's pole
2 Consumer
3 On __; offered at a lower price
4 Magnify

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20					21				22		23			
					24				25					
26	27	28						29			30	31	32	33
34					35				36					
37					38				39			40		
41				42				43				44		
45								46			47			
					48		49				50			
51	52	53										55	56	57
58							59		60			61		
62							63					64		
65							66					67		

- 5 __ as the hills
6 Arrived
7 Hurry
8 Overwhelm
9 Gaze
10 Removed text
11 Element whose symbol is Fe
12 Swamp critter, for short
13 Notice
21 Racket
23 Powerful winds
25 Bawls out
26 Leaning
27 Of the moon
28 Ridiculous
29 Hitchcock or Scorsese: abbr.
31 Oak tree nut
32 Actor Willem
33 Arguments
35 Melancholy
36 Male sheep
38 Aromatic wood
39 Calico or tiger
42 Hates
44 Neatest
46 Diminish
47 Short swim
49 Makes booties
50 Hidden supply
51 Needless fuss
52 Left speechless
53 Peddle
54 Small nail
55 Hawaiian island
56 Baby's bed
57 European mountain range
60 Motorists' assn.

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P19871, \$2,977



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15384A, \$4,977



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SILVER-AUTO
53252A, \$3,477



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RED-AUTO-LEATHER
P19672A, \$5,477



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WHITE-LEATHER-AUTO
15061B, \$3,577



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WHITE-V8
P19906, \$5,977



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WHITE-STICK-4CYL
53376B, \$3,977



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BLACK-LEATHER-ROOF
53409B, \$5,977



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DK RED-AUTO-ALLOYS
P19817B, \$3,977



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P19905, \$5,977



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53563B, \$3,977



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P19737A, \$5,977



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RED-4DR-AUTO-POWER
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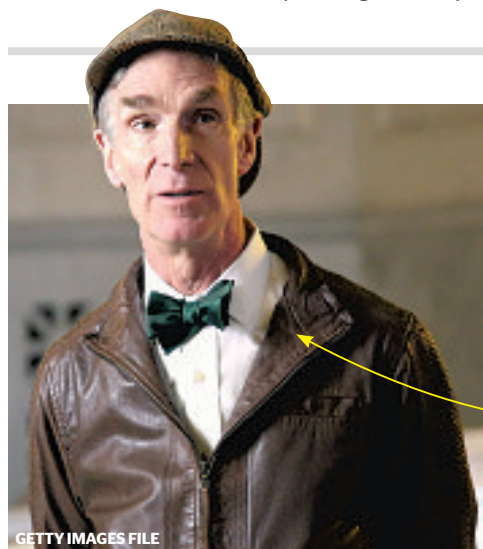


It's about time

The hit Netflix series "Stranger Things," starring Winona Ryder and a gaggle of adorable preteens, has officially been renewed for a second season, according to **deadline.com**. Matt and Ross Duffer, who created and wrote the show, will develop nine new episodes for Season 2, which is set to premiere in 2017. A Netflix video teaser says it will take place in fall 1984, a year after Season 1's action started. The supernatural drama's first season brought in a whopping average of 14.07 million adult viewers, Deadline reported.

Taking a break

In the midst of a world tour for her album "Revival," Selena Gomez has announced that she will be taking a hiatus for health reasons, according to **people.com**. The singer revealed last year that she has the autoimmune disease lupus, and in a statement this week announcing the break, she said, "I've discovered that anxiety, panic attacks and depression can be side effects of lupus, which can present their own challenges." The singer thanked her fans for their support, saying, "You know how special you are to me, but I need to face this head on to ensure I am doing everything possible to be my best. I know I am not alone by sharing this, I hope others will be encouraged to address their own issues." We wish her a speedy recovery.



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Bill Nye the talk show guy

In one of the more nostalgia-inducing bits of news this week, the science guy **Bill Nye** has reportedly clinched a talk show gig on Netflix, according to **variety.com**. "Bill Nye Saves the World," set to launch in spring 2017, will delve into the impact of science on politics, society and pop culture and include episodes on vaccinations, genetically modified foods and climate change. "With the right science and good writing, we'll do our best to enlighten and entertain our audience," Nye said in a statement. "And, perhaps we'll change the world a little." We sure hope so, Bill.

The list of superheroes is dwindling, apparently

Marvel is reportedly piecing together a comedy series based on the little-known New Warriors superhero group, according to **tvline.com**. Described as a junior version of the Avengers, the show's New Warriors notably would feature Squirrel Girl, a heroine who can communicate with squirrels alongside her super speed and strength. The project, which would run in half-hour installments, is currently being shopped around different cable networks and streaming sites. Anna Kendrick has previously tweeted about her interest in playing Squirrel Girl—get on that, girl.



GETTY IMAGES FILE

Natalie Dormer loves period films

Actress **Natalie Dormer**, of "Game of Thrones" and "The Tudors" fame, has joined the cast of the upcoming film "The Professor and the Madman," according to **thr.com**. The movie is based on Simon Winchester's book of the same name that follows the true story of two men (played by Mel Gibson and Sean Penn) who created the Oxford English Dictionary in the mid-1800s. In a surprising casting twist, Gibson will play the professor, James Murray, rather than the madman, W.C. Minor, who will be played by Penn. Dormer will portray a widow whose husband was killed by Penn's character. Principal photography is set to start later this month.

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